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ABSTRACT

As part of a continuing student flow study in Hawaii community colleges, the persistence of 9,171 fall 1974 entering students after six semesters was analyzed to ascertain the degree to which they persisted at campuses other than the one of entry. Characteristics studied included sex, age, high school background, marital status, entry status, educational objective, program during last semester of attendance, full- or part-time status, cumulative grade point average, cumulative credit-completion ratio, change vs. no change of campus, change vs. no change of major, and campus of last enrollment. Data indicated that persistence patterns viewed from the perspective of the overall community college system differed somewhat from those viewed by campus of entry--decreasing the non-persister category from 2,617 to 2,296 (29 to 25%), decreasing the moderate persister category from 3,567 to 3,366 (39 to 37%), increasing the stop-out category from 824 to 1,082 (9 to 12%), and increasing the extreme persister category from 944 to 1,111 (10 to 12%), the latter indicating that approximately one in eight students attended one or more colleges for six consecutive semesters without completing a degree. Higher proportions of students who changed campuses (21%) or majors (21%) were found to be extreme persisters compared to those who did not. (TR)

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ED151039

PERSISTENCE IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM AFTER SIX SEMESTERS

Fall 1974 Entering Students

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Report No. 37

Student Flow Project

JC 780 127

March 1978

Office of the Chancellor for Community Colleges
Educational Services Division
University of Hawaii

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
A. Introduction	1
B. Findings	1
1. Community College System	2
2. New Students	5
3. Transfer Students	7
C. Concluding Comment	9
Appendix A Detailed Tables: Community College Total	10
Table 1. Highest Rates for Persistence Patterns, by Characteristics, Fall 1974 Entering Students, Community College Total	3
Table 2. Graduates, by Campus, Community College Total	4
Table 3. Highest Rates for Persistence Patterns, by Characteristics, Fall 1974 Entering Students, New Students Only	6
Table 4. Highest Rates for Persistence Patterns, by Characteristics, Fall 1974 Entering Students, Transfer Students Only	8

A. Introduction

Report No. 30 of the Student Flow Project analyzed persistence after six semesters of the Fall 1974 entering group, by campus of entry. This report analyzes persistence in the community college system, enabling us to find out the degree to which Fall 1974 entering students persisted at campuses other than the one of entry. In order to minimize repetition, we urge the reader to refer to Report No. 30 for definitions of the five persistence patterns and of the student characteristics considered in our analysis.

This report presents the findings for the community college system in terms of the ten characteristics used in Report No. 30[1] as well as the following three:

--change of campus vs no change of campus
--change of major vs no change of major
--campus of exit (campus of last enrollment)

B. Findings

The Fall 1974 entering students (9,171) had the following persistence patterns at the end of six semesters. The first column was reported previously; the second shows persistence in the community college system.

	Campus of Entry		Comm. Coll. System	
	No.	V%	No.	V%
Total	9,171	100%	9,171	100%
Non-Persister	2,617	29%	2,296	25%
Moderate Persister	3,567	39%	3,366	37%
Stop-Out	824	9%	1,082	12%
Extreme Persister	944	10%	1,111	12%
Graduate	1,219	13%	1,316	14%

The data above show that persistence patterns in the community college system differed somewhat from those, by campus of entry. Some of these differences are shown below:

--the decrease in non-persisters from 2,617 to 2,296 (from 29 to 25 percent). This means that 321 students attended another campus during the second or succeeding semesters.

--the decrease in moderate persisters from 39 to 37 percent.

--the increase in stop-outs from 9 to 12 percent.

--the increase in extreme persisters indicating that approximately 1 in 8 entering students attended one or more community colleges for six consecutive semesters without completing a degree.

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[1]Data on educational objective are in terms of the students' objective at the campus of entry.

—the increase in graduates from 1,219 to 1,316, indicating that 97 students received their degrees from a campus other than the one of entry. (The rate rose from 13 percent for graduation from the campus of entry to 14 percent for graduation from the community college system.)

Our study of persistence patterns in the community college system, by characteristics, shows that *there are statistically significant differences in persistence patterns on all characteristics for the community college system, for new students only and for transfer students only.* Findings are presented below for these three groups.

1. Community College System

While Table 1 shows the highest rates for each persistence pattern, by characteristics, Appendix A includes details for each characteristic. A few highlights are shown below:

a. Non-persister (one semester only): 25 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 10 percent of the following sub-groups:

36% students 22-24 years old at entry

51% students whose marital status was "other" (widowed, divorced, etc.)

38% GED students

36% part-time students

56% unclassified students with no degree being sought

51% students with grade point averages below 2.0

43% students with credit-completion ratios below .5

b. Moderate persister (2+ continuous semesters): 37 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 10 percent of the following sub-group:

49% students with credit-completion ratios of .50-.79

c. Stop-out (in/out pattern): 12 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

17% students who entered Windward Community College

40% students who changed campuses

29% students who changed majors

d. Extreme persister (all six semesters): 12 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

18% public services majors

21% students with grade point averages of 2.0-2.9

TABLE 1
HIGHEST RATES FOR PERSISTENCE PATTERNS, BY CHARACTERISTICS
FALL 1974 ENTERING STUDENTS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTAL (9,171)

Note: See Appendix A for detailed tables.

Characteristic[a]	One Sem. Only	2+ Cont. Sem.	In/Out Pattern	All Six Sem.	Graduate
TOTAL	25% (2,296)	37% (3,366)	12% (1,082)	12% (1,111)	14% (1,316)
Sex***	27% female	38% male	13% male	14% male	17% female
Entry Age***	36% 22-24 yrs.	39% below 19 yrs.	13% each below 19, 25-29 yrs.	16% below 19 yrs.	17% below 19 yrs.
Marital Status***	51% other	37% single	12% single	13% single	16% single
High Sch. Backgr.***	38% other	38% each foreign; public, Oahu	14% private, Hawaii	16% public, Oahu	25% public, N.I.
Entry***	30% transfer	38% new	12% each new, transfer	14% new	16% transfer
Status***	36% part-time	39% full-time	16% part-time	15% full-time	24% full-time
Educational Obj.***	56% other	46% A.A.	13% A.A.	16% A.S.	43% certificate
Program***	56% other	46% liberal arts	15% public services	18% public services	64% health services
Cumulative GPA***	51% below 2.0	41% 2.0-2.9	13% below 2.0	21% 2.0-2.9	22% 3.0-3.4
Cumulative CCR***	43% below .5	43% .50-.79	15% each .50-.79, below .5	20% each .80-.99, .50-.79	35% .80-.99
Campus of Entry***	29% Honolulu	42% Leeward	17% Windward	15% Leeward	31% Hawaii
Campus of Exit***	30% Maui	42% each Leeward, Windward	15% Kauai	15% Leeward	30% Hawaii
Change of Campus***	28% no change	38% no change	40% change	21% change	15% no change
Change of Major***	32% no change	39% no change	29% change	21% change	23% change

[a]Levels of significance, based on chi-square analysis, denoted as follows: * .05, ** .01, *** .001.

20% students with credit-completion ratios of .50-.79 or .80-.99

21% students who changed campuses

21% students who changed majors

e. Graduate: 14 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

25% students who graduated from public, Neighbor Island high schools

24% full-time students

43% students who earned certificates

64% health services majors

22% students with grade point averages of 3.0-3.4

35% students with credit-completion ratios of .80-.99

31% students who entered Hawaii Community College

30% students last enrolled at Hawaii Community College

23% students who changed majors

Table 2 was prepared to show the extent to which students graduated from their campus of entry. Of the 1,316 graduates, 1,219 (93 percent) received their degrees from their campus of entry and 97 from other colleges. A few entering students from every campus graduated from a college other than the one of entry (ranging from 28 who entered Kapiolani to 2 who entered Kauai).

TABLE 2
GRADUATES, BY CAMPUS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTAL

Campus of Entry	Total Graduates	Degree Received From:	
		Campus of Entry	Another Comm. Coll.
TOTAL	1,316	1,219	97
Hawaii CC	257	245	12
Honolulu CC	238	219	19
Kapiolani CC	326	298	28
Kauai CC	74	72	2
Leeward CC	240	216	24
Maui CC	138	129	9
Windward CC	43	40	3

2. New Students (Table 3)

a. Non-persister (one semester only): 23 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 10 percent of the following sub-groups:

37% students 22-24 years old at entry

55% students whose marital status was "other" (widowed, divorced, etc.)

37% students who graduated from Mainland high schools and GED students

35% part-time students

55% unclassified students with no degree being sought

47% students with grade point averages below 2.0

42% students with credit-completion ratios below .5

b. Moderate persister (2+ continuous semesters): 38 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 10 percent of the following sub-group:

49% students with credit-completion ratios of .50-.79

c. Stop-outs (in/out pattern): 12 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

41% students who changed campuses

28% students who changed majors

d. Extreme persister (all six semesters): 14 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

21% public services majors

22% students with grade point averages of 2.0-2.9

22% students with credit-completion ratios of .50-.79

22% students who changed campuses

23% students who changed majors

e. Graduate: 14 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

25% students who graduated from public, Neighbor Island high schools

23% full-time students

42% students who earned certificates

63% health services majors

22% students with grade point averages of 3.0-3.4

34% students with credit-completion ratios of .80-.99

TABLE 3
HIGHEST RATES FOR PERSISTENCE PATTERNS, BY CHARACTERISTICS
FALL 1974 ENTERING STUDENTS
NEW STUDENTS ONLY (7,046)

Characteristic[a]	One Sem. Only	2+ Cont. Sem.	In/Out Pattern	All Six Sem.	Graduate
TOTAL	23% (1,649)	38% (2,649)	12% (830)	14% (949)	14% (969)
Sex***	26% female	39% male	13% male	16% male	16% female
Entry Age***	37% 22-24 yrs.	39% below 19 yrs.	13% below 19 yrs.	16% below 19 yrs.	17% below 19 yrs.
Marital Status***	55% other	38% single	12% single	15% single	16% single
High Sch. Backgr.***	37% each, U.S. Mainland, other	39% each; public, Oahu; private, HI	16% private, HI	18% public, Oahu	25% public, N.I.
Status***	35% part-time	40% full-time	16% part-time	17% full-time	23% full-time
Educational Obj.***	55% other	46% A.A.	13% A.A.	18% A.S.	42% certificate
Program***	55% other	46% liberal arts	15% public services	21% public services	63% health services
Cumulative GPA***	47% below 2.0	41% each 2.0-2.9, 3.5 & above	14% below 2.0	22% 2.0-2.9	22% 3.0-3.4
Cumulative CCR***	42% below .5	49% .50-.79	16% each .50-.79, below .5	22% .50-.79	34% .80-.99
Campus of Entry***	29% Maui	43% Windward	16% Windward	18% Leeward	30% Hawaii
Campus of Exit***	29% Maui	44% Windward	14% Windward	16% each Hon., Kap., Lee.	29% Hawaii
Change of Campus***	26% no change	39% no change	41% change	22% change	14% no change
Change of Major***	30% no change	40% no change	28% change	23% change	21% change

[a]Levels of significance, based on chi-square analysis, denoted as follows: * .05, ** .01, *** .001.

30% students who entered Hawaii Community College

29% students last enrolled at Hawaii Community College

21% students who changed majors

3. Transfer Students (Table 4)

a. Non-persister (one semester only): 30 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 10 percent of the following sub-groups:

43% students whose marital status was "other" (widowed, divorced, etc.)

43% GED students

58% unclassified students with no degree being sought

65% students with grade point averages below 2.0

50% students with credit-completion ratios below .5

b. Moderate persister (2+ continuous semesters): 34 percent of the total and this rate was exceeded by at least 10 percent of the following sub-groups:

48% hotel/food services majors

49% students with credit-completion ratios of .50-.79

c. Stop-out (in/out pattern): 12 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

22% students who entered Kauai Community College

21% students last enrolled at Kauai Community College

34% students who changed campuses

31% students who changed majors

d. Extreme persister (all six semesters): 8 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

15% students with grade point averages of 2.0-2.9

15% students with credit-completion ratios of .80-.99

15% students who changed campuses

14% students who changed majors

e. Graduate: 16 percent of the total, and this rate was exceeded by at least 5 percent of the following sub-groups:

21% students 19-21 years old at entry

24% students who graduated from public, Neighbor Island high schools

28% full-time students

45% students who earned certificates

66% health services majors

TABLE 4
HIGHEST RATES FOR PERSISTENCE PATTERNS, BY CHARACTERISTICS
FALL 1974 ENTERING STUDENTS
TRANSFER STUDENTS ONLY (2,125)

Characteristic[a]	One Sem. Only	2+ Cont. Sem.	In/Out Pattern	All Six Sem.	Graduate
TOTAL	*30%* (647)	*34%* (717)	*12%* (252)	*8%* (162)	*16%* (347)
Sex***	*34%* female	*38%* male	*12%* each male, female	*9%* male	*19%* female
Entry Age***	*34%* each, 22-24; 25-29; over 29 yrs.	*40%* below 19 yrs.	*14%* 25-29 yrs.	*11%* over 29 yrs.	*21%* 19-21 yrs.
Marital Status*	*43%* other	*39%* other	*12%* each single, married	*8%* each married, single	*18%* single
High Sch. Backgr.***	*43%* other	*41%* foreign	*13%* each; public, Oahu; U.S. Mainland	*10%* foreign	*24%* public, N.I.
Status***	*38%* part-time	*37%* full-time	*15%* part-time	*9%* full-time	*28%* full-time
Educational Obj.***	*58%* other	*43%* A.A.	*15%* certificate	*11%* A.S.	*45%* certificate
Program***	*58%* other	*48%* hotel/food svcs.	*15%* hotel/food svcs.	*12%* business	*66%* health svcs.
Cumulative GPA***	*65%* below 2.0	*40%* 2.0-2.9	*15%* 2.0-2.9	*15%* 2.0-2.9	*23%* 3.0-3.4
Cumulative CCR***	*50%* below .5	*49%* .50-.79	*15%* .50-.79	*15%* .80-.99	*40%* .80-.99
Campus of Entry***	*36%* Kauai	*42%* Leeward	*22%* Kauai	*10%* Windward	*39%* Hawaii
Campus of Exit***	*34%* Kauai	*42%* Leeward	*21%* Kauai	*10%* Honolulu	*37%* Hawaii
Change of Campus***	*34%* no change	*35%* no change	*34%* change	*15%* change	*26%* change
Change of Major***	*38%* no change	*36%* no change	*31%* change	*14%* change	*29%* change

[a]Levels of significance, based on chi-square analysis, denoted as follows: * .05, ** .01, *** .001.

23% students with grade point averages of 3.0-3.4

40% students with credit-completion ratios of .80-.99

39% students who entered Hawaii Community College

37% students last enrolled at Hawaii Community College

26% students who changed campuses

29% students who changed majors

C. Concluding Comment

This study of persistence in the community college system shows that 887 students who entered the community colleges in Fall 1974 enrolled at a campus other than the one of entry during the six-semester period. This represents 10 percent of the total entering group. Furthermore, 1,927 students (21 percent) changed their majors during this period.

It is also interesting to note that higher proportions of students who changed campuses (21 percent) and who changed majors (21 percent) were extreme persisters compared to those who did not (11 and 10 percent, respectively). The situation was not that consistent for graduates. Graduation rates were: (1) 12 and 15 percent, respectively, for those who changed campuses compared to those who did not and (2) 23 and 12 percent, respectively, for students who changed majors compared to those who did not. Noteworthy is the fact that students who changed majors had a graduation rate almost double that of those who retained the same major.

We shall have a similar study of persistence in the community college system for the Fall 1975 entering group. Comparisons with Fall 1974 entering students will be made. This will give us an opportunity to evaluate the "stability" of these findings.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

MAR 31 1978

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